

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

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SUBJECT:TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION: INDIAN REQUEST FOR
INFORMATION

REFERENCE: BOMBAY 0366

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT OF
FEBRUARY 17, 1976, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD RELATING TO
TARAPUR:

QUOTE:

MR. CRANSTON. MR. PRESIDENT, RECENTLY I WAS INVITED BY
SENATOR GLENN TO SIT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMIT-
TEE DURING A PORTION OF AN EXCELLENT SERIES OF HEARINGS ON
NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. IT WAS DURING THOSE HEARINGS, ON
JANUARY 30, THAT I ASKED SOME QUESTIONS REGARDING SOME VERY
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SERIOUS CHARGES MADE IN AN ARTICLE BY MR. PAUL JACOBS IN A
NEW MAGAZINE ENTITLED "MOTHER JONES." THIS ARTICLE RAISED
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SAFENESS OF A NUCLEAR REACTOR IN
TARAPUR, INDIA.

NOW PENDING ARE WRITTEN RESPONSES REQUESTED IN THE
COURSE OF THE HEARINGS FROM THOSE WHO MIGHT BE IN A POSITION

TO SHED FURTHER LIGHT ON THE SAFENESS OF THE TARAPUR
REACTOR.

MEANWHILE, I HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE DISTINGUISHED INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, MR. T. N. KAUL, EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE JACOBS ARTICLE AND PROVIDING DIFFERENT INFORMATION ABOUT THE REACTOR. IN ORDER TO INSURE A FAIR HEARING FOR THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S CON- TENTIONS, I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S FEBRUARY 5 LETTER TO ME BE PRINTED IN THE RECORD ASFOLLOWS:

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, THE LETTER WAS ORDERED TO BE PRINTED IN THE RECORD, AS FOLLOWS:

EMBASSY OF INDIA,
WASHINGTON, D.C. FEBRUARY 5, 1976.

HON. ALAN CRANSTON,
U.S. SENATE,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CRANSTON: YOUR AIDES WERE GOOD ENOUGH TO SEND TO OUR FIRST SECRETARY, MR. K. V. RAJAN, SOME DOCU- MENTS PERTAINING TO ALLEGATIONS OF RADIO-ACTIVE HAZARDS AT THE NUCLEAR REACTOR IN TARAPUR. IMMEDIATELY ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEARING OF THE ARTICLE BY PAUL JACOBS, PUBLISHED IN "MOTHER JONES", AND DISCUSSIONS IN THE US SENATE ON THE SUBJECT, I HAD SENT A MESSAGE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, DR. HOMI SETHNA. DR. SETHNA HAS CONFIRMED THAT ALL SUCH ALLEGATIONS ABOUT TARAPUR ARE BASELESS AND UNTRUE. IT IS TOTALLY FALSE AND INCORRECT TO SAY THAT LARGE NUMBER OF WORKERS DIED AS A RESULT OF EXPOSURE IN THE STATION OR THAT THE NEWS WAS SUPPRESSED. THERE HAS BEEN NO INSTANCE OF DEATH OR ILLNESS ATTRIBUTABLE TO RADIATION EXPOSURE EITHER OF WORKERS AT TARAPUR OR OF ANY MEMBER OF THE GENERAL POPULATION IN THE VILLAGES SURROUNDING THE STATION. THE ANNUAL WHOLE BODY DOSE DUE TO INTAKE OF ACTIVITY FROM LAND AND WATER ROUTES INCLUDING SEA FOOD BY FISHERMEN WHICH CONSTITUTE THE CRITICAL GROUP OF POPULATION IS FOUND TO BE ABOUT 12.5 MILLIREM. IN THE NEAR SHORE REGION UP TO 30 KILOMETERS, THE CONCENTRATION OF RADIOACTIVITY IN SEA WATER BEYOND THE STATION IS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM NORMAL BACK- GROUND. NO INDIVIDUAL EXPOSURE FROM ALL ROUTES (THAT IS WATER, LAND AND AIR) AMONGST THE MOST EXPOSED GROUPS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, HAS BEEN FOUND TO EXCEED EVEN HALF THAT DUE TO NATURAL BACKGROUND LEVEL WHICH, BEFORE WE STARTED OPERATING THE REACTOR, WAS 60 MILLIREM PER ANNUM IN THAT AREA.

I AM COMMUNICATING THE ABOVE TO YOU IN THE HOPE THAT,

WITH YOUR SENSE OF FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE, YOU WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT EITHER BY ENTERING THE ABOVE DENIAL INTO THE APPROPRIATE RECORDS OR IN ANY OTHER WAY TO DEEM FIT. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD FOR YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT DR. SETHNA HAS ALREADY SENT A MESSAGE TO CHAIRMAN ANDERS OF THE N.R.C. ENQUIRING ABOUT THE CORRECT POSITION ON SENATE HEARINGS ON TARAPUR AND OFFERING TO COOPERATE WITH ANY ANALYSIS OF TARAPUR STATION UNDERTAKEN BY THE N.R.C.

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WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS,

SINCERELY,
T. N. KAUL

P.S. - I HAVE JUST BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE "MOTHER JONES" ARTICLE HAS BEEN PRINTED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON THE INITIATIVE OF SENATOR ABOUREZK. I TRUST YOU WILL AGREE THAT IT IS NOW ALL THE MORE NECESSARY TO PLACE THE MATTER IN PERSPECTIVE BY TAKING COGNIZANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S DENIAL OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE TARAPUR PLANT. END QUOTE

2. MAGAZINE ENTITLED "MOTHER JONES" CONTINUES TO BE PUBLISHED BY FOUNDATION OF NATIONAL PROGRESS, 607 MARKET STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, 94105. HABIB

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